

Aasheesh Pittie
8-2-545 "Prem Parvat", Road No. 7, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500 034. India.
Phone: Off: 040-3320269 Fax: 040-314064 Res: 040-315683

15 November, 1995

Mr. Shyamal L
E-18, II Sc. Campus
BANGALORE - 560 012

Dear Sir / Madam,

In February 1995, a workshop was organized by Salim Ali Center for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), Birdlife International (BLI) and Birdlife International Asia Council for discussion on a Red Data Book for the Birds of Asia. This workshop is a part of the Global Action Plan of BLI to save the bird species from extinction. 30% of the threatened birds of the world exist in Asia and the list is getting longer every year.

There is an urgent need for collating available information on the status, habitat and ecology of each of these species and the various threats to their existence and also to generate data on these lines whenever required. These data are to be published as the Red Data Book of the Birds of Asia (Threatened Birds of Asia) in 1999 and will be the third of its kind, the first being for Africa (1985) and the second for the Americas (1992). The major objectives of this book are:

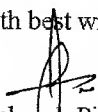
1. Identify and fully document all globally threatened species in the Asia region,
2. Identify the principal threats to the birds of Asia and,
3. Indicate and prioritize action for all threatened species in terms of key sites, habitats and appropriate management.

A working plan for India was prepared in which the country was divided into 10 bio-geographic zones, each represented by one or two zonal coordinators whose job it is to collate the information on the selected species. Dr. S. Subramanya, Bangalore and I have been entrusted with collating records from the Deccan Peninsula.

Enclosed is a list of birds which are candidate species for inclusion in the Red Data Book, falling within the bio-geographic zone of the Deccan Plateau and, a form in which information is to be filled and then returned to the above address. You are requested to use separate forms (please photocopy or write for more) for each different record for each of these species e.g., if a species is recorded from various areas, then you should use a different form for each area. Every source of information, be it a collection in a university or held privately, personal birding records, news-clippings, photographs, etc., should be tapped to get a complete picture of the species and its distribution and all sources referred should be mentioned in the form for each and every record. Please feel free to write if there is any doubt.

This project will succeed only with the unstinted cooperation of the Indian birding fraternity. In appreciation of your contribution to it, the Red Data Book will publish the names of all contributors and sources who will help in making it possible. It is a giant task, so let's get on with it, we owe it to the birds!

With best wishes,


Aasheesh Pittie
Encl: List of Species and Form.

**THREATENED BIRDS OF ASIA : CANDIDATE LIST OF SPECIES FROM
INDIA FOR THE DECCAN PENINSULA**

Spotbilled Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis*
 Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*
 Pinkheaded Duck *Rhodonessa caryophyllacea*
 Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*
 Rednecked Falcon *Falco chicquera*
 Great Indian Bustard *Ardeotis nigriceps*
 Lesser Florican *Sypheotides indica*
 Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*
 Wood Snipe *Gallinago nemoricola*
 Jerdon's Courser *Rhinoptilus bitorquatus*
 Indian Skimmer *Rynchops albicollis*
 Nilgiri Wood Pigeon *Columba elphinstonii*
 Forest Owlet *Athene blewitti*
 Malabar Crested Lark *Galerida malabarica*
 Syke's Crested Lark *Galerida deva*
 Whitebellied Minivet *Pericrocotus*

erythropygius

Yellowthroated Bulbul *Pycnonotus*

xantholaemus

Bristled Grass Warbler *Chaetornis striatus*
 Kashmir Flycatcher *Ficedula subrubra*
 Black-and-rufous Flycatcher *Ficedula*

nigrorufa

Green Avadavat *Amandava formosa*

Indian Shag *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis*
 Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*
 Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*
 Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*
 White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*
 Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*
 Blacknecked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus*

asiaticus

Blackheaded Ibis *Threskiornis*

melanocephalus

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*
 Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor*
 Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*
 Black-crested Baza *Aviceda leuphotes*
 Greyheaded Fishing-Eagle *Ichthyophaga*

ichthyaetus

Whiterumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*
 Longbilled Vulture *Gyps indicus*
 Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*
 Redheaded Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus*

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*
 Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*
 Oriental Hobby *Falco severus*
 Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*
 Great Snipe *Gallinago megala*
 Blackbellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda*
 Yellowlegged Green Pigeon *Treron*

phoenicoptera

Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris*

Spotbellied Eagle-Owl *Bubo nipalensis*

Dusky Eagle-Owl *Bubo coromandus* 4.10.92 Sid.

Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting*

Little Scaly-bellied Green Woodpecker

Picus xanthopygaeus

Rufous Woodpecker *Celeus brachyurus*

Brownbreasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa*

muttui

Rednaped Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa*

Painted Partridge *Francolinus pictus*

Grey Junglefowl *Gallus sonneratii*

Barheaded Goose *Anser indicus*

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

Bluebreasted Quail *Coturnix chinensis*

Broadbilled Roller *Eurystomus orientalis*

Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Eurasian Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Large Whistling Teal *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Wooly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*

NOTE

The above lists are divided into 4 sections due to certain technical reasons. Kindly complete and send in Forms for as many species and from as many areas within the Deccan Peninsula as possible, for inclusion in the Red Data Book.

5. POPULATION :

(a) Number of birds observed in the locality during each visit.

(b) Records from others.

(c) Records from personal communication.

(e) Population estimate.

(f) Population trends.

6. ECOLOGY :

(a) Nesting :

Season _____, Peak nesting _____, Clutch _____

Incubation period _____, Nestling period _____

Fledgling period _____, Nestling success _____

Breeding success _____

Predation of eggs / nestlings (mark the right one, give %, if known)

(b) Feeding :

Type of food _____, Competition _____

Other details _____

7. CONSERVATION :

Threats (Species & Habitat) :

Action taken :

Action proposed :

8. REMARKS :

9. REFERENCES :

(Please, send a copy of publications)

Note : Incase space is not adequate in any column, please use additional) sheet and give column number and proceed.